IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended):

~~A method for the selection of molecules active in the prevention and/or treatment of Huntington's Disease wherein the ability of said molecules to inhibit the activity of the NRSE element is evaluated.~~

A method for the selection of a candidate compound potentially useful as a drug to prevent and/or treat Huntington's Disease, wherein the ability of said compound to inhibit the activity of the NRSE (Neuron-Restrictive Silencer Element) element is evaluated by

(a) incubating said compound in the presence of a cell system stably transfected with the NRSE sequence containing SEQ ID No.: 1, inserted upstream of a reporter gene;

(b) evaluating of inhibition of the NRSE sequence activity by measurement of gene reporter activity,

whereby an increased gene reporter activity in the treated sample compared to control indicates that the candidate compound inhibits the activity of the NRSE element.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Currently Amended):

A method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said reporter gene is selected from the group consisting of the chloramphenicol acetyle transferase gene, the luciferase gene and the green fluorescent protein gene.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended):

A method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, wherein said cells are cells expressing mutated huntingtin.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended):

A method according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, further comprising the evaluation of the amounts of REST factor in the cytoplasm and/or nucleus of said cells.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented):

A cellular system suitable to perform the method described in claim 1 wherein it consists of cells that are engineered to stably contain the NRSE sequence inserted upstream of a reporter gene.

Claim 7. (Original):

A cellular system according to claim 6 wherein the reporter gene is selected from the group consisting of the chloramphenicol

acetyle transferase gene, the luciferase gene and the green fluorescent protein gene.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented):

A cellular system according to claim 6, whose cells are neuronal cells.

Claim 9. (Original):

A cellular system according to claim 8, whose cells are striatal cells.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented):

A cellular system according to claim 6 whose cells are either parental cells or cells expressing huntingtin.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented):

A process for the production of the cellular system described in claim 6 that comprises:

(a) the obtainment of a vector with the NRSE sequence inserted upstream of a reporter gene and

(b) transfection of the cells of this system with said vector.

Claim 12. (Original):

A process according to claim 11, wherein said vector is the NRSE-TK-LUC construct.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented):

A transfection vector suitable to be used in a process according to claim 11, whose sequence comprises the NRSE sequence inserted upstream of a reporter gene.

Claim 14. (Original):

A transfection vector according to claim 13, wherein the reporter gene is selected from the group consisting of the chloramphenicol acetyle transferase gene, the luciferase gene and the green fluorescent protein gene.

Claim 15. (Original):

A vector according to claim 13 which is the NRSE-TK-LUC construct.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended):

A method for the selection of molecules able to act in the prevention and/or treatment of Huntington's disease comprising the following steps:

(a) incubating said molecules with a cellular system

(b) evaluating the decrease of REST (repressor element transcription factor) in the cytoplasm and/or its increase in the nucleus of said cells.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn).

Therapeutic method for the prevention and/or treatment of Huntington's disease comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a NRSE inhibitor.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn).

A NRSE inhibitor compound, selected by the method described in claim 1.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn).

A NRSE inhibitor compound, selected by the method described in claim 16.